

The Jacob Journal

A NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB

JANUARY 1998

The Changes Keep Coming!

1997 flew by! And, in case you missed any of the changes in San Diego County, here's a quick look at just some of last year's accomplishments:

MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE

Incredible strides have been made to make our streets and neighborhoods safer. Crime in San Diego County has gone down 27% in the last four years, and continues to decrease. Ground was broken to put a new Sheriff's Substation in Poway, the East County Gang Task Force got the benefit of yet another Deputy District

Attorney to prosecute gang members, and diversion programs were expanded to keep kids out of gangs in the first place. In addition, community policing deputies were added to Alpine, Boulevard, and Campo, deputies proposed to be cut from Ramona were saved, and an ordinance was passed which makes the parents of graffiti vandals responsible!

In 1996, I initiated the Methamphetamine Strike Force, and efforts to battle the deadly drug continued in 1997. The Methamphetamine Hotline has logged more than 1,400 calls from citizens reporting meth dealers, meth users and meth labs or looking for help to overcome meth addiction. In fact, 36 arrests and 2 lab seizures are the direct result of the hotline! In addition, an ordinance was put in place to be sure that the criminals who make meth are forced to pay for the environmental clean-up needed as a result of the meth lab.

In addition, funds were provided to rural fire districts for capital expenses, and I successfully co-sponsored action to establish an arson reward fund to make certain that arsonists are caught and put behind bars. And, I will continue to serve on the Border Agency Fire Council to address the unique fire dangers posed in the backcountry due to illegal immigration.

MAKING GOVERNMENT SMALLER, SMARTER & BETTER

One of the biggest changes experienced last year was a new

way of doing business in county government. The Board of Supervisors actually started the move in 1996 by hiring Larry Prior as our Chief Administrative Officer — he's the private sector partner we were seeking to put our business focus into practice. Not only did the Board and the CAO successfully sell the failed trash system, netting \$179 million in cash for taxpayers, we increased our budget reserves to \$50 million, an historic high! Finally, San Diego County is in good fiscal health!

A pay-for-performance plan was implemented and county departments badly in need of fiscal control and accountability underwent a zero-based budget process. At the same time, a drug testing program for ALL potential County employees was put in place and my proposal to immediately implement voter-approved Proposition 209

put San Diego at the forefront for eliminating quotas! In addition, I successfully sponsored the Board's endorsement of the Campaign Reform Initiative, which requires public and private employers and labor organizations to obtain permission from employees and members before withholding pay or using union dues or fees for political contributions.

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

Along with running the County more like a business in 1997, new ways were developed for County government to work with business. Overhead in Planning & Land-Use was reduced by 175%, resulting in \$200,000 in fees off the backs of property owners, and fees in Environmental Health were reduced by 7.5%. Plus, extended hours are now offered in Planning & Land-Use, Environmental Health and Public Works — to better serve the public.

In addition, the Board of Supervisors stood up for Barona, Sycuan, and Viejas by calling on the Governor to negotiate with these three gaming tribes to develop a compact which includes a local government component. Collectively, these three tribes are the single largest employer in East County, employing more than 4,000 workers with a payroll of about

1997
1998

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**Supervisor Dianne Jacob
proudly serves the
communities of:**

Agua Caliente Springs
 Allied Gardens
 Alpine
 Barrett
 Blossom Valley
 Bostonia
 Boulevard
 Campo
 Casa de Oro
 Crest
 Cuyamaca
 Dehesa
 Del Cerro
 Descanso
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 El Cajon
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 Guatay
 Harbison Canyon
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 Jamul
 Julian
 La Mesa
 Lake Morena
 Lakeside
 Lemon Grove
 Mount Laguna
 Mount Helix
 Pine Hills
 Pine Valley
 Potrero
 Poway
 Ramona
 Rancho San Diego
 Rolando
 Santa Ysabel
 Santee
 Shelter Valley
 Spring Valley
 Tecate
 Tierra del Sol
 Vallecitos

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\$77 million. In addition, they spend more than \$79 million annually on outside goods and services and donate more than \$4 million annually to local charities and community events. With 15,000 daily patrons to the casinos, these three tribes are a major contributor to San Diego's tourism, entertainment, and employment base.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

1997 was a banner year for San Diego County and protecting the natural beauty of our region. One of the biggest accomplishments was passing an historic Multiple Species Conservation Plan, which preserves 172,000 acres of open space for future generations. Successful acquisitions include the Rancho San Diego Preserve, the Daley Ranch and Las Montanas.

HELPING CHILDREN, FAMILIES & SENIOR CITIZENS

One of the prevailing themes for families and seniors today is a concern about access to quality healthcare. Last March, in response to these concerns, I initiated action to establish a Regional Healthcare Advisory Council comprised of nationally and locally prominent healthcare professionals. They were charged with developing a "Road Map" for San Diego County to help improve access to quality healthcare for the people of San Diego County. Over the last year, the experts heard from all the stakeholders — the next step will be their report and recommendations, which are due out in February.

Preventative health and diversion programs for children began, including Project Heartbeat, designed to create an integrated system of care for children & adolescents who are seriously emotionally disturbed, and a Critical Hours program funded with \$1 million in seed money for 24 after-school programs throughout the County. In addition, ground was broken for the Spring Valley Family Health Center, which will be the only provider of community-based, low cost, primary care in the Spring Valley area. And, cable companies responded to pressure by the Board of Supervisors to more tightly control access to pornography.

On the welfare reform front, I am pleased to report great early success. Already, the number of families receiving aid has gone from 64,000 at the end of 1996 to 51,000 today — that's 13,000 families off the welfare rolls and back to work. In just two years, this swift action saved taxpayers \$117 million! In addition, a Child Care Czar was appointed to assure that affordable, quality child care is available for San Diego families.

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITIES

Last year, many library, park, and community center projects moved forward in the Second District! Here's a quick look — the Lakeside Boys and Girls Club

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gymnasium, Steele Canyon Park, Sweetwater Lane Park, Descanso and Jacumba libraries were completed and opened; funds were obtained to improve the Dulzura Community Center, Collier Park, Lake Jennings Regional Park, the Mount Helix Nature Theater, Lindo Lake Park, and to build a bike lane along Dehesa Road; and the Cottonwood Park II project began. In addition, Jess Martin Park and the Rios Canyon Ballfields were acquired. Revitalization projects began in Lakeside and Ramona; ground was broken for a new Poway library; action was initiated to establish a joint use library with the Julian Union School District and to create an Adopt-a-Shelf Program for county libraries; and more than \$470,000 in Community Enhancement funds were awarded to organizations in the Second District.

In addition, Scripps-Poway Parkway was opened and ground was broken on Los Coches Road and Jamacha Boulevard — all three will improve traffic safety and traffic flow. Plus, ground was broken for the Rancho San Diego Town Center, the largest commercial and retail development in the unincorporated area of the County!

LOOKING FORWARD IN 1998

In 1998, I will continue to work for you. Major issues on the horizon are identifying a stable funding source for libraries, successful conclusion to the Mount Helix Cross, improving traffic safety along the accident-ridden Highway 94 corridor, continuing with aggressive and compassionate welfare reform, and making the San Diego / Arizona Eastern Rail Line a reality. In short, my fight to make our neighborhoods safe, to make our government smaller, smarter, and better, to strengthen our economy, to protect our environment, to help children, families and seniors, and to improve our communities will continue!

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